



NEWS

Vaccination numbers could impact look of new school year

School boards optimistic continued vaccination efforts by staff and students 12 and older will have positive effect on returning to in school learning in September

By [Catherine Whitnall](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Area school boards continue to support staff efforts to get fully vaccinated by September in order to provide the best start possible for the new school year.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board director of education Wesley Hahn said, while there are still many question marks when it comes to the next year, getting as many adults fully vaccinated in the next three months is a key component of answers.

“This really has an impact on us returning in September,” said Hahn who anticipates the majority of staff and a considerable number of students age 12 and older will have received at least their first dose; something that will likely affect decisions by parents and caregivers who have been asked to register their children for either in school or online learning by June 1.

While this involves a certain measure of optimism and crystal-ball gazing, Hahn notes knowing student numbers now is crucial for planning.

“It’s not an easy process because it involves a lot of pieces like budget, like staffing, and we don’t take that lightly because we can’t afford to make any mistakes. And we know how tight our budget is when it comes to supporting our September plan,” said Hahn. “But we also know there are varying parent views on returning to school or remaining in Learn@Home or wearing masks ... We understand that parents are looking out for the best interest of their children.”

Related content

[Tracking the COVID vaccine rollout in Kawartha Lakes](#)

[Tracking the COVID vacc](#)

Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board director of education Joan Carragher is likewise confident that most — if not all — board staff will have received their second dose by the start of the new school year.

She has been meeting with health units regarding logistics for vaccinating students and working on sharing information with parents.

“A number of options were on the table, but using mass clinics was considered the best,” said communications manager Galen Eagle. “We also haven’t had any real input from parents just yet ... but we may get some feedback once those clinics are set up.”

Greg Kidd, executive officer of corporate affairs with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, expects vaccination levels for staff and students to continue to rise as community vaccination rates increase. The board is working closely with local health units' partners on an ongoing basis to help with vaccine rollout.

“We know they continue to work on their plans, which are based on the distribution system that best works for their area,” said Kidd.

Headlines newsletter

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)